



C. E. Shreve with his crew of berry pickers in the midst of the raspberry season on his two-acre plot in Upshur County, West Virginia.

The "Raspberry King" Of Upshur County

By A STAFF WRITER

FOR five years C. E. Shreve has held the title of "Raspberry King" of Upshur county, West Virginia, and has probably been entitled to it for the state as a whole. But what is more important, this crop has solved the problem of increasing his farm income sufficiently to enable him to maintain an adequate standard of living.

Mr. Shreve began by setting out two acres of raspberries in 1929. The second year he marketed 1,250 gallons of berries from this field, or 625 gallons per acre. His largest single picking from the two acres that season yielded 417 gallons.

Twenty-five to 30 pickers were employed during the busiest part of the picking season. Mr. Shreve was kept busy recording the pick of each worker, packing, and checking the weights of crates.

Factors contributing to this success included an excellent stand of healthy

vigorous plants, virgin sandy loam soil, clean cultivation from time of setting until time of fruiting, and the application of 200 pounds of sulphate of ammonia on the two acres at the beginning of the growing season.

As a check on the value of the nitrogen application, two rows of plants were left unfertilized. These plants bore less and smaller fruit which ripened ten days later than fruit on plants in the remainder of the field.

Fruit produced by the fertilized plants in addition to being earlier and larger was also of better quality.

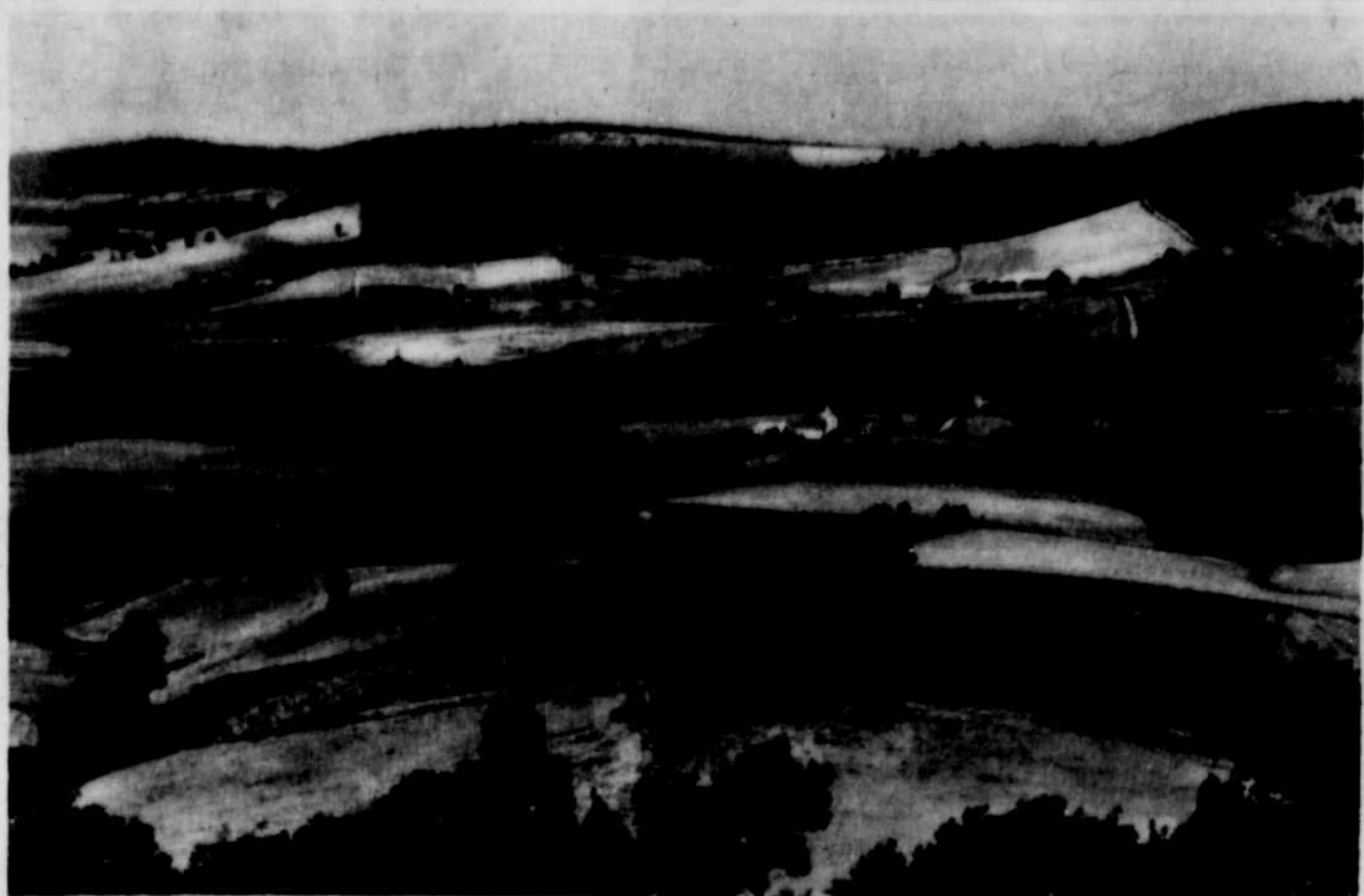
Raspberries have continued to be a profitable crop for Mr. Shreve for five years. Many of his neighbors have taken up growing them, and have met with success. These men are demonstrating that small fruit has possibilities as a cash crop under conditions such as prevail in Upshur county.

Seen at University of Delaware



Professor H. C. Harris of the University of Delaware School of Agriculture explains how to take soil samples to Frances Rogers of Lewes, and Ralph Watson of Laurel.

(Below) The laying house at the University of Delaware showing a part of the flock of white leg-horns developed over a period of years at the University.



Good farming land in Garrett County, Maryland.

(Resettlement photo by Jung)

Face Lifting in the Vegetable World

THE old variety store slogan, "If you don't see what you want, ask for it," is admirably applicable to present day seed breeding and vegetable development.

Vegetable consumers have said again and again, in effect, "We don't like this vegetable with such a short edible root, or we want a thicker fleshed tomato." They did not see what they wanted, so they asked for it.

Fortunately, as consumers began making their demands, seedsmen began acquiring the ability to alter the size, shape and other characteristics of vegetables, and flowers and fruits as well.

The rather plebeian pepper provides an interesting example. Not long ago the pepper was somewhat non-descript in shape and one of its principal characteristics was its crinkled, creviced exterior.

Today the housewife may buy a pepper with an almost smooth exterior, one which causes the grower no cleaning and dusting worries. The flesh is thickened and firm. These qualities are provided in a pepper of uniform, squarish shape.

Of course, the seedsmen cannot in all cases say to vegetable consumers, "Tell me what you want and I'll get it for you." He cannot, for instance, make celery all edible stalk and no foliage. He can and has, however, greatly increased the proportion of edible stalk to leafy top. He has developed celery varieties which are uniformly brittle. He has likewise reduced the amount of foliage on certain carrot varieties, made the shape of the edible root less tapering, more equally round and with a blunt end, for housewives prefer them of this shape for table use and canning.

He has stretched and lengthened the cucumber and changed the color of cer-

Flesh of the California wonder pepper is much thicker than that of peppers widely used years ago.



Not so stream-lined and tapering are the newer carrot strains.

tain cucumber strains. He produces egg plant fruits of more elongated shapes, revises shapes of cabbages and performs hundreds of similar alterations of vegetable varieties. But this process of vegetable face-lifting requires time.

Often the wants of the consuming public are not understandable. Growers were inconvenienced, in the case of the crook-neck squash, by packing difficulties. Seedsmen supposed housewives would be happy to have the awkward crook removed from the squash.

So they proceeded with their botanical surgery. They achieved their objective. But did the consumer like it? Their affection for the crook-neck squash remained firm. To this day this ugly duckling squash is far more popular than his refined relative.

The Florida High Bush Egg plant is known for its ability to support elongated fruits from the ground.

